



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

60 STATE STREET WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06161

GA27658



October 5, 1997

Docket Clerk
U.S. DOT Dockets
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 OCT -9 PM 2:57
DOCKET SECTION

Re: English Language Requirements; Qualifications of Drivers
[Docket No. FHWA-97-2759]- 14

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Commercial Safety Vehicle Safety Division of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has reviewed the notice of proposed rulemaking dealing with section 391.11(b) FMCSRs. The following will state our position on this matter for your review and consideration.

It is our position that individuals who are engaged in commerce and are subject to regulatory authority such as motor vehicle stops, etc., should be able to communicate with those enforcing said regulations and laws. This is necessary to properly enforce all provisions of law and to ensure that no misunderstanding presents itself that would create a situation that was harmful or dangerous to either the operator or law enforcement official.

From our own experience in the field, the ability to communicate is an absolute necessity. Not only does the operator require clear and precise instructions, the officer requires answers in the same manner. To have a situation where individuals are unable to communicate really in not in the best interests of either party.

It is our feeling and belief that all operators should have basic language skills and able to understand the officer to the extent that all requests can be properly responded to. In addition, that while the officer is conducting such activity that they are not placed in harms way due to the inability of the operator to understand their requests and direction.

Your consideration of this position is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carlton R. Csiki

Carlton R. Csiki
Division Chief
Commercial Vehicle Safety Division